

CLAIMS

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:
storage medium drive controlling means for controlling writing and reading of data to and from a storage medium including at least a first storage area which stores data constituting an application program in a non-rewritable format, a second storage area which stores identification information indicating that at least said application program is legitimately stored on said storage medium, and a third storage area into which to store user-related information in write-once fashion;

authenticating means for authenticating said storage medium at least in accordance with said identification information stored in said second storage area;

setting means which, if said storage medium is successfully authenticated by said authenticating means, then sets requirements for executing said application program stored in said first storage area, using setting information which at least includes said user-related information and which is stored on said storage medium; and

executing means for executing, in an environment set up by said setting means, said application program stored in said first storage area of said storage medium.

2. An information processing apparatus according

to claim 1, further comprising storage controlling means which, if said user-related information is not found on said storage medium, then causes said storage medium drive controlling means to store subsequently input user-related information into said third storage area of said storage medium.

3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium includes a fourth storage area into which to store rewritable process-ready data to be processed by said application program; and

wherein said executing means causes said storage medium drive controlling means to store into said fourth storage area the process-ready data resulting from the execution of said application program.

4. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said identification information stored in said second storage area is allocated uniquely to each piece of said storage medium on which said application program is stored.

5. An information processing method comprising the steps of:

writing/reading data to and from a storage medium including at least a first storage area which stores data constituting an application program in a nonrewritable

format, a second storage area which stores identification information indicating that at least said application program is legitimately stored on said storage medium, and a third storage area into which to store user-related information in write-once fashion;

authenticating said storage medium at least in accordance with said identification information stored in said second storage area;

if said storage medium is successfully authenticated in said authenticating step, then setting requirements for executing said application program stored in said first storage area, using setting information which at least includes said user-related information and which is stored on said storage medium; and

executing, in an environment set up in said setting step, said application program stored in said first storage area of said storage medium.

6. A program for causing an information processing apparatus to carry out a procedure comprising the steps of:

writing/reading data to and from a storage medium including at least a first storage area which stores data constituting an application program in a nonrewritable format, a second storage area which stores identification

information indicating that at least said application program is legitimately stored on said storage medium, and a third storage area into which to store user-related information in write-once fashion;

authenticating said storage medium at least in accordance with said identification information stored in said second storage area;

if said storage medium is successfully authenticated in said authenticating step, then setting requirements for executing said application program stored in said first storage area, using setting information which at least includes said user-related information and which is stored on said storage medium; and

executing, in an environment set up in said setting step, said application program stored in said first storage area of said storage medium.

7. A storage medium which stores a program for causing an information processing apparatus to carry out a procedure comprising the steps of:

writing/reading data to and from a storage medium including at least a first storage area which stores data constituting an application program in a nonrewritable format, a second storage area which stores identification information indicating that at least said application

program is legitimately stored on said storage medium,
and a third storage area into which to store user-related
information in write-once fashion;

authenticating said storage medium at least in accordance with said identification information stored in said second storage area;

if said storage medium is successfully authenticated in said authenticating step, then setting requirements for executing said application program stored in said first storage area, using setting information which at least includes said user-related information and which is stored on said storage medium; and

executing, in an environment set up in said setting step, said application program stored in said first storage area of said storage medium.